Travel Destiny

Destiny S. Harris

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Dedication

This book is for every person who wants to travel.

Some people are born with their entire being predestined to explore and travel the universe.

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Travel Destiny

Something I notice about people who travel is they seem to have a deeper understanding of people and life; the perspectives of people who travel tend to be more informed compared to others who do not travel.

Not everyone has a desire to travel though; some people are satisfied residing in the same place all their life without much traveling--and this is completely fine. However, for all the people that are interested in traveling domestically and/or internationally, you have picked up the right book.

It is important to remember that you can travel wherever you want to go if you put a plan in place. A lack of finances does not have to be an impediment to reaching your travel goals. Where would you like to go?

Step 1: Your first step in getting to the places you want to venture to is to document them. If you don't already have a travel list, take time right now to make a list of all the cities, countries, continents, islands,

and states that you would like to visit. Do not place any limits on the number of places you write down.

Step 2: Now I want you to prioritize your list. List the top 1-3 places that you would like to visit within the next year.

Step 3: Once you have this written down, determine the cost and expenses that each of the destinations entail.

Step 4: Then, determine which of these places you would like to visit *first* without any regard to the cost of the trip.

Step 5: Finally, fill out this sample travel template that I have listed below:

Travel Plan:

1. Place(s) I intend to visit:

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Why I want to visit:

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Cost + Expenses of trip (list expenses in an itemized fashion in ascending order):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Plan I intend to follow to make this trip happen:

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Date I intend to go on this trip:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Ask, Ask, & Ask Some More

Learn to discipline your disappointments--Jim Rohn

If you do not have all the resources to fund your travel adventures, then you will need to save up and work for it and/or ask others for help.

There is no room for fear when it comes to asking others for help. Everyone is different, and some people will require the help of others more than some, but you mostly likely will require the help of at least one person (even if it's as simple as getting an answer to a question).

Many people are afraid to ask others for help because they fear rejection and fear being told "no". However, you must look at rejection simply as another opportunity to receive a "yes" from someone else. For every "no", there is always a "yes" somewhere else.

Learn to ask people for help without any concern for what the answer will be. Also, remember that the more you ask others for help, the more likely you will

receive a "yes", from someone at some point; you increase your chances of receiving help from others by *consistently* asking more people.

When I was raising money to travel and study abroad, I asked ample amounts of people to support me, and I received a lot of no's; sometimes I did not even get a response from the people I asked. Despite this fact, I continued to ask more and more people; I did not let a lack of response, or a "no", discourage me from seeking a "yes" *from someone else*.

When you have a goal, you will come across different hurdles; oftentimes, those hurdles you come across will show you how much you truly want to accomplish something.

Never stop asking. Never stop seeking help. And never get discouraged when people choose not to help you.

Remember, there is always someone who is willing to help you accomplish your goals even when these helpful people seem nowhere to be found; often they

are just "around the corner" awaiting you. If it seems that people are constantly telling you "no", then let this be fuel that drives you to keep asking more people.

Learn to not take "no" personally and learn to not let a "no" discourage or disappoint you. Keep going no matter what happens.

Operation 20 | Op China

Some of the many places I have visited throughout my lifetime include eight countries in Europe and several cities throughout China. The trip to Europe cost a total of $8,000, and the trip to China cost a total of $12,000 (it was more expensive since it included study abroad courses). So not only can *you* raise the money you will require in *less* than one year, but you can raise the money you require in a couple months.

Furthermore, the trips you have in mind may cost a lot less; moreover, even if the trips you have in mind do cost more than my trips did, you still have no excuse not to raise all the required funds because anything is possible if you simply back the desire up with consistent effort and strong belief.

The trip to Europe was planned almost a year in advance (I had about 10 months to raise all the funds for this trip). The trip to China was planned more sporadically, and I only had about 4 months to raise the money, but I *knew* that I wanted to visit the continent of Asia and start with the country of China.

When you have a goal and a strong desire to accomplish that goal, you will find a way to achieve that goal no matter what; you will be relentless and determined to make it happen.

To raise enough funds for these trips, I created two plans which I named, "Operation 20" and "Operation China".

Operation 20

European Heritage was the program I completed with an organization called People to People International--ECE.

This program included visiting the following countries: Belgium, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, and The Netherlands. I completed this program in between my junior and senior year of high school. The reason I chose this program, at this organization, versus others was because it offered me the opportunity to visit 6 countries versus only visiting 1-3 countries.

I named the plan, "Operation 20", because my goal was to ask *every* single person I could to support my study abroad adventures for as little as 20 bucks. Of course, I would accept less than twenty bucks, and of course I would accept more than twenty bucks. However, I made it known, to each person I asked, that $20 was all I was requesting. I got to the point where I was asking people I barely knew for financial support. I even went door to door in nearby neighborhoods to ask people to support my education abroad; at times this was a frightening endeavor, but I realized that **I could either ask and receive a possible "yes", or I could *not* ask and most definitely receive nothing at all.**

The reason why so many of the people I asked supported me was because I had a goal, purpose, and organized plan that I effectively conveyed to people; furthermore, I also let people know how my travel adventures would be a benefit to society. When you have a strong sense of direction along with a plan that benefits not only yourself, but others as well, people will support you (even people who do not know you).

Having a visual plan that keeps track of your progress is consequential to view daily. Hence, I printed out a piece of paper filled with tiny boxes (i.e. see below) and posted this paper on one of my bedroom walls. I filled the piece of paper with enough boxes (a total of 400) to equal a total of $8,000. Every time someone donated $20 to my trip, I filled in one of the boxes with the date I received their donation. I also kept a separate log to keep track of the names of everyone who donated so I could send thank you notes (I also sent thankyou letters, texts, and emails--with pictures, after I got back from the trip to convey my gratitude once more). Many of the people who gave to me ended up being people I continued to build relationships with, and some people ended up supporting me for both trips.

I would say that filling in each $20 box was one of the most rewarding feelings I have experienced; I was even more elated when people gave above and beyond twenty bucks because I could then knock out multiple boxes at a time. Every box that I filled moved me one step closer to my $8,000 goal. For those 10 months, I focused on filling in as many $20

boxes as possible. I also contributed myself through my own efforts.

OPERATION 20 - GOAL: $8,000

2/2	2/4	2/6	2/8	2/8	2/8													

Op China

I chose to go to China at the very last minute, but I knew I desired to acquire more international travel experience before I graduated from my university. I also knew that Asia was one of the continents that I had not visited yet, and I wanted to check it off my bucket list. Despite this fact, I did not know how I would raise all the money for this trip (considering it was around $12,000), and the trip seemed to get more expensive as time went by; somehow it all worked out in the end though. I truly believed that if I was meant to go on the trip, then everything would work out perfectly, and I would be in attendance. This trip to China included the following cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, and Yan'an.

I knew that I had a lot of money to raise for the trip; hence, instead of asking people for a certain amount like I did for "Operation 20" (e.g. $20 bucks), I told people the price of the trip (in an itemized fashion) along with the deadline I needed to have all the money by. By not asking for a minimum or maximum amount of money from each person, it led people to donate in greater amounts that put hefty dents in the total amount left that I needed to raise. It also helped that I listed out the cost of each expense for the trip in an organized fashion; some people simply paid for specific things on the expense list (e.g. China Visa). I did not create a chart for this plan like I did for "Operation 20"; I simply logged every donation I received and made immediate payments towards the balance.

For both "Operations", I heavily focused on letters and the help of other people, but I, personally, also contributed a lot. I not only worked and asked people for money, but I also asked people if I could do work for them in exchange for financial support. Be prepared to do all (or a lot) of the work to bring in the

necessary income to fund your travel plans; remember that when you reach your destination, all the consistent and persistent effort will be worth it.

Furthermore, the more frequent you travel, the smarter you will become at utilizing resources; hence, finding money to travel will become innate for you after a while because you will have done it so many times.

What is your plan going to be? How do you plan to raise all the money to travel? Sometimes the help of other people is not needed as much, and you can work and save the money on your own with time and planning; either way, you need to have a plan in place, and determine if you will utilize the help of others or simply yourself. However, remember that there are many people (and this includes people that don't know you) who would love to support your travel adventures if you simply tell them about it. Many informed people realize that investing in another person's global education creates a positive domino effect on society because people who travel

extend diversity and understanding of other cultures to every person they encounter.

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Letters, Text, & Emails

Communication has come so far, which has made it even easier to raise money. In addition to old fashioned letters, texts, calls, and emails, there are now several online sites and online tools that allow you to fundraise; different social media platforms offer this option as well.

Some people that you know are more likely to give online because it is more convenient for them. Cater to your potential donors to increase your donations. I decided not to use any electronic platforms to raise money aside from email; I focused on letters because they had a more powerful effect on my potential donors.

Try to avoid asking people for money without giving them an adequate reason to give to you. Give people a *good* "Why"; tell people, in organized detail, about your plans, your dreams, your goals, and your purpose. Give people a VERY GOOD REASON to support you and your endeavors without much room for hesitation in their minds towards you.

Letters

Aside from raising money from my own work that I did, a lot of money I raised came from sending out letters to hundreds of people. I sent hundreds of connections, family, friends, and associates good old-fashioned mailed letters. I even put a self-stamped envelope in the letters to make it more convenient for people to donate.

Letters are an excellent tool to utilize; they are also easy to create and modify as time goes by and circumstances and goals change. *You can effectively convey everything you need in a one-page letter and get solid results.*

A good letter is sincere, genuine, convincing, organized, and professional. If you are unsure if your letter is good enough, ask someone else to read and look over it; see if the person is convinced enough by your letter to donate to you.

Example Itemized Trip

Destination: Japan, China, Singapore

Trip Duration: 30 days

Itemized Expenses:

Spending: $600

Food: $800

Living/Housing: $2,600

Plane Ticket(s): $4,000

Total Trip Amount: $8,000

Deadline: 00/00/0000

Texts, Emails, Calls

You can simply send an email, text, or call someone whom you have a more casual relationship with (e.g. immediate family or close friends) to inform them of your travel plans. It is always easy to bring it up whenever someone asks, "What are you up to?" This is a great time to talk about how you are currently in the process of raising funds to travel.

Entrepreneurial Efforts

In addition to working a regular job--if you have one--you can earn money in countless other ways. A smart way to bring in some extra income for your travel plans is to work for yourself. There are plenty of business and entrepreneurial opportunities you can take advantage of that pay well. I gave music lessons, tutoring lessons, and did other various jobs that paid well, which helped me reach my financial goals. The benefits of working for yourself include: control the rate you charge for your services, create your own schedule, and be your own boss.

Instead of making your goals only about yourself, make your goals about others as well. How can your travels benefit others? List all the benefits and then tell others about them. Traveling is not only an enriching experience for the one traveling abroad, but it often has a positive domino effect on each person the traveler encounters after the experience. Previously, I stated that, "[..] people who travel [...] seem to understand people and life more fully". This fact alone creates a world full of more quality,

understanding, and open-minded people; tell people exactly this.

Another way to entice people to help you is to let them know you are willing to earn their support. Stubborn givers become more willing to give if you offer to *earn* your donation.

Entrepreneurial Ideas:

1. Gardening
2. Organizing/De-Cluttering
3. House Cleaning
4. Dog Walking
5. Dog/Pet Sitting
6. Dog/Pet Washing
7. Baby/Kid Sitting
8. Mow Grass
9. Personal Training
10. Car Washing/Cleaning
11. Grocery Shopping
12. Be Someone's Executive Assistant
13. Complete Errands for Someone
14. Complete a Research Paper for Someone

15. Type Up Documents
16. Tutoring
17. Give Lessons In Your Area of Expertise
18. Sell Your Stuff!

The list can continue indefinitely. You have probably even thought of some opportunities already by simply reading this list. Remember that your skills and passions can be monetized.

Networking Is Essential

The bottom line is: *other people enabled me the opportunity to travel*, but I still had to do the leg work and facilitate all the support I received (on top of my own efforts). Make new connections whenever and wherever you can. One of the biggest factors in reaching my goal was due to networking. Whenever you meet someone new or have the chance to convey your goals with someone, take advantage of the opportunity, and tell them you're planning a trip abroad and are currently fundraising (or saving) for it.

Often, this will lead them to helping you discover ideas about how to obtain resources from places and people you never considered; they may even know someone who can help you, or they may personally decide to help you reach your goals.

Either way, the more you share your goals with others, the more you increase your chances of receiving the resources you need. Spread the word about your travel goals, and watch continuous doors open for you! You never know who your next donator

will be. *I have learned that resources can often come from the least likely of people and places.*

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Last Tidbits

On a final note, do not forget about scholarships. There are many organizations that will support individuals (both students and non-students) to travel. I ended up obtaining one scholarship through the OIE Foundation which went towards my trip to China. Every bit of funding helps.

Also, remember there are numerous ways to travel abroad without the trip costing thousands of dollars. Do some research on hostels, bid for airfares, teach English to non-native speakers, and stay with families in the countries you decide to visit (I did a homestay in Germany). Be creative! Instead of wishing for your travel adventures to happen "someday", make them happen *today*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any inquiries about how you can raise funds for your travel destinations. Also, feel free to keep me updated on your travel plans and how saving and raising funds for your trip is progressing.

Once again, thank you for reading this book. I hope you learned something that you can apply immediately. I also aspire that you travel to every single place that you wish to experience.

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Turn Your Dreams Into Goals

Excerpt from: Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

Often, the dreams we have about things we hope to achieve can come about if we simply document our dreams and create a plan of action to make our dreams a reality. Every person on this planet has a unique purpose and a unique set of gifts and talents. What are your gifts and talents? What do you enjoy doing most? What makes you happy? Whatever we enjoy doing most, and whatever makes us most happy is often a sign of what we should be doing with our lives.

A while ago, one of my friends conveyed some powerful words out loud, "Monetize your passion." These words have been said before many times in different ways, but they stuck out to me when he said it. Instead of spending your life getting paid to do something that you do not enjoy, get paid to do something that you do enjoy. Many of us do not realize how much of our life is spent doing things that we do not enjoy until we take a moment to consider

this subtle truth. One of my life mottos is: spend more time doing the things I love and enjoy, and less time doing the things I don't love and enjoy. If you follow this motto you will live a happier, more fulfilling, and more successful life; you will also help yourself maintain a more positive attitude and higher energy by living your life this way.

Today many people are *not* going after their dreams; so many of us spend much of our lives hearing about and witnessing the successes of others because those people choose to go after their dreams. Furthermore, a lot of the people that *are* going after their dreams often quit when they do not receive or observe immediate results from their actions.

In order to make your dreams a reality, you must decide that you are going to do something every single day to put you one step closer to making your dreams *your* reality. When you consistently work on your dreams and goals, you build momentum, confidence, and stamina. After a while, any type of perceived setback will not discourage you, tamper with your positive mental attitude, nor decrease your

momentum towards reaching and accomplishing your goals; instead, setbacks will motivate you to push further and more ardently towards accomplishing your goals and dreams in other creative ways.

The more consistently you work on your goals and dreams, the more you will start to believe in yourself and your dreams. Take *one minute* to list out the five most important goals in your life right now as quickly as possible. As you are writing down these goals, do not place any limits on what you *think you can or cannot achieve;* only write down what you wish to accomplish without limits. After you have done this, decide which goal is the most important goal that you need to act on immediately. Next, write a list of 10-20 actions you can take to accomplish this goal. Finally, complete one action right now for this goal, and then come back and continue reading.

Remember, there are no goals and dreams that are *too big* or *unachievable*. You are the sole determinant of whether your dreams convert into your present reality. If you are ever feeling discouraged because you feel that your actions are not producing any solid results,

don't give up. Continue working on your goals every day and expect the best outcome from your dedication and time that you consistently invest into your goals.

It is important to understand that you should never compromise between *what you want* and *what you think is possible and realistic for you to achieve*. Instead of adjusting your goals to be more "realistic goals", adjust the actions and steps you plan to take that in summation will realistically help you accomplish your "dream goals". We are capable of more than we think we are if we relinquish all our fears, doubts, and insecurities. Ultimately, we must believe in ourselves to tap into our unlimited potential.

How much longer will you spend your life *thinking* about your dreams versus *consistently working* on your dreams? Instead of wasting time watching other people accomplish their goals and dreams, channel that time and energy into your own dreams, which is exactly what successful people do.